MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Guerra arancelaria; Fórmula capitalista mata bebés 12

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 60, No. 29 July 19, 2018 $1

Follow us!
@WorkersWorld
/WorkersWorldParty
workers.org

Wales, England, Scotland
Huge protests slam U.S. prez

By Kathy Durkin

A massive crowd of 250,000 people protested President Donald Trump's visit to Britain on July 13 in London, says the Stop Trump Coalition. The group was a main organizer of Together Against Trump demonstrations.

Though dubbed "the Carnival of Resistance," the issues raised were serious: opposition to Trump's racism, Islamophobia, misogyny, and immigration and environmental policies, including U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate control accord. Signs also slammed Britain's Brexit policy for its xenophobia.

Owen Jones, a coalition leader, explained: "We need to show that we abhor everything that Trump represents: bigotry, racism, anti-Muslim prejudice and misogyny." (New York Times, July 13)

The Women's March London kicked off the protests prior to the main demonstration. With the theme of "Bring the Noise" — drums, whistles, pots and pans — women said loudly and clearly that "this misogynist is not welcome here." Stonewall, the LGBTQ rights charity, had a large contingent and denounced Trump's attacks on their rights in the U.S. Later in the day, demonstrators, including many Muslims, marched across London.

Huge banners were held aloft that read, "Trump not welcome here!" while sign and chant slogans said, "Refugees are welcome here!"

A 20-foot-tall blimp, representing Trump, hovered over both Houses of Parliament, the sites chosen because "there are a lot of parallels between Trump's politics and the UK government, such as indefinite detention of migrants, and having environmentally unfriendly policies," explained organizer Nona Hurkman. (USA Today, July 13)

Jeremy Corbyn, Labor Party leader, told the crowd at Trafalgar Square: "We're asserting our rights to demonstrate and live in a world that's not divided by misogyny, racism and hate. I want to live in a world where refugees are not blamed for the wars they are victims of." Dividing ourselves by xenophobia means we all lose, he stressed, and "when we unite around common objectives, we can all win." (socialistworker.co.uk, July 13)

Protesters strongly defended London Mayor Sadiq Khan, a Muslim of Pakistani descent, who has been the target of racist attacks by the U.S. xenophobe in chief and the ultraright in England for his statements sympathetic to migrants. Khan opposes the U.S. travel ban on immigrants from majority-Muslim countries and has called Trump "a menace to democracy." When asked about Trump's visit by the media, Khan championed the unity and diversity of his city's population.

While in Britain, Trump publicly slandered immigrants and pushed Prime Minister Theresa May to hasten Britain's exit from the European Union. In 2016, the

Continued on page 4



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

The new organization, FIRE, demonstrates at Rockefeller Center to protest DHS and ICE dinner in New York City, July 11. (see page 2.)



London



Women's March

CLASS STRUGGLE IN USA

EDITORIAL: The future is now 6
1997 UPS strike 6
On the picket line 3
Raising children from jail 3
No NATO, No Trump! 5
Ireland-Palestine solidarity 4

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ 4 weeks trial $4 ☐ 1 year subscription $30

☐ Sign me up for the WWP Supporter Program: workers.org/donate

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City / State / Zip _____

Workers World Weekly Newspaper
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011

workers.org
212.627.2994

FRANCE 7 HAITI 7 AMAZON STRIKE 5

Utah

Protest hits MTC and ICE



Eight people were arrested July 12 during a nonviolent direct action targeting the national headquarters of MTC — Management Training Corporation — located in Centerville, Utah. MTC is the third largest builder of internment camps housing undocumented migrants. The eight were part of a coalition formed to combat attacks on migrants. They joined other groups around the country by focusing on the company that is building for-profit prisons and detention centers. The group called for abolishing ICE — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement — and for the end of for-profit prisons.

— Report and photo by Summer Smith, who was one of those arrested

PHOTO: DARIN MANN

New York City

‘No more kids in cages’



Chanting “No more kids in cages! Stop the deportations!” and “No ban on stolen land!” protesters marched around the plaza at Rockefeller Center in New York. At one point, they pushed through a police barricade, took the bleachers and hung a banner over the wall which declared: “Close the Detention Centers Now. Open the Borders. Asylum for Refugees.”

They were protesting there July 11 because the National Homeland Security Conference, an annual event aimed at creating propaganda to promote the Department of Homeland Security and private security contractors who are responsible for the detention and deportation of millions of immigrants, was holding a dinner inside Rockefeller Center. As conference attendees gathered in the sunken area at the center of the plaza, where the ice rink is in the winter, protesters sent them a loud message.

The newly formed group FIRE (Fight for Im/migrants and Refugees Everywhere) called the demonstration. FIRE’s goal is to get rid of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, dismantle concentration camps holding immigrants and tear down any racist border wall that Trump tries to build. Many people passing by showed their support for the protest, which was taking place as children snatched from their parents at the border remain locked up in detention centers, terrified because of the violent separation.

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan

MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you: workers.org/wwp

National Office
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443.221.3775
baltimore@workers.org

Bay Area
1305 Franklin St. #411
Oakland, CA 94612
510.600.5800
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.286.6574
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
Buffalo@Workers.org

Chicago
1105 N. Ashland Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60622
312.630.2305
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Indiana
Indiana@workers.org

Madison
Madison@Workers.org

Los Angeles
5278 W Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
la@workers.org
323.306.6240

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
585.436.6458
rochester@workers.org

Rockford, Ill.
rockford@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
SLC@Workers.org

San Antonio, Texas
SanAntonioWWP@
workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

Virginia
Virginia@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

WORKERS WORLD *this week*

★ **In the U.S.**

Utah: Protest hits MTC and ICE 2
New York City: ‘No more kids in cages’ 2
South Carolina prisons: Raising children from jail 3
On the picket line 3
UPS Teamsters 1997 strike: Rank-and-file fight-back..... 6

★ **Around the world**

Britain: Huge protests slam U.S. prez 1
Irish Senate passes bill: Solidarity with Palestine 4
A short history of NATO — a bosses’ alliance..... 5
Prime Day strike in Spain, Germany 5
France: And if this is just the beginning?..... 7
Haitians demand jobs, rollback of prices..... 7

★ **Editorial**

The future is now..... 6

★ **Noticias en Español**

Guerra arancelaria 8
Fórmula capitalista mata bebés 8

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 60, No. 29 • July 19, 2018
Closing date: July 17, 2018

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Monica Moorehead, Minnie Bruce Pratt; Web Editor Gary Wilson

Production & Design Editors: Coordinator Lal Roohk; Andy Katz, Cheryl LaBash

Copyediting and Proofreading: Sue Davis, Bob McCubbin, Jeff Sorel

Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Fred Goldstein, Martha Grevatt, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Terri Kay, Cheryl LaBash, John Parker, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Andrea Bañuelos, Alberto García, Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

Copyright © 2018 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: $30; institutions: $35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011.

On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

Baltimore Target workers demand: 'No More Racist Bosses'

Under a red "No More Racist Bosses" banner, workers at a Target store in suburban Baltimore gathered inside the entrance on July 3 and then led a walkout and picket. The Target workers leading the struggle, Erica Feldenzer and Sarah Shifflet, laid out their demands to In These Times on July 6: firing the two managers "on the grounds of unprofessionalism and making racist and ableist comments about team members repeatedly and talking down to them," and that "workers receive fair hours each week so that they are not chronically scheduled outside of their availability." Members of the Baltimore Teachers Union, Democratic Socialists of America and the community joined in the struggle.

This protest echoes last year's action in late August when a group of Target workers struck in Christiansburg, Va., to oust a manager who made racist remarks and sexually harassed Latinx workers. This strike turned into a victory two days later when Target removed the manager from the shop floor and placed him on leave pending investigation. (ITT, Sept. 1, 2017)

In response to the Baltimore struggle, Target issued a statement that management has been working to "take any allegations of workplace misconduct seriously" and "to address issues ... and has already taken actions to address them." (corporate.target.com)

Though the number of workers in the Baltimore fight is modest, the fact that Target employs over 350,000 workers worldwide, who obviously need union representation, makes this struggle significant.

Help FLOC fight unjust firings

When two Latinx tobacco workers spoke out recently about their harsh living and working conditions on Randy Blalock's tobacco farm in Roxboro, N.C., the bosses harassed, abused and ultimately fired them. Now the Farm Labor Organizing Committee is sponsoring a petition to help fight their boss, his anti-union lawyer and tobacco buyers Reynolds as well as Alliance 1. FLOC is asking the grower to pay thousands of dollars in stolen wages and to compensate workers for their unjust and retaliatory termination. (floc.com, July 4)

This story reflects the experiences of many other tobacco workers who endure the risk of nicotine poisoning and dehydration, no freedom of association and no union, and an opaque supply chain. (IUF, July 6) Help FLOC win justice for these workers by signing the petition at tinyurl.com/flocblalock.

'Panic buttons' in all Chicago hotels

Starting July 1, licensed hotels in Chicago are required to provide panic buttons for designated female hotel workers, often women of color and im/migrants. Spokeswoman Sarah Lyons, speaking for UNITE HERE Local 1, which championed the "Hands Off, Pants On" ordinance and national campaign representing about 15,000 hospitality workers, said the button is "not just a physical device, but a symbol" of city support and the fight against sexual harassment.

Celebrating what representatives from Local 1, the Chicago Federation of Labor and city officials called a "cultural shift" for women worker's rights, workers who "clean, inventory, inspect or re-stock supplies" alone in guest rooms or restrooms now have portable panic buttons so they can send out alerts if they feel threatened. Noting that this day marks "a culmination of a lot of hard work," hotel worker Roushaunda said, "Today's the day we say no more. Today's the day we claim our space. We will feel protected." (Chicago Sun-Times, July 2)

This is a decisive step in ending sexual harassment of working women. It should be implemented in all hotels and motels nationally as a vital part of the #MeToo movement.

Fight for $15 sets up sexual harassment hotline

In an email appeal signed by the Women of McDonald's, Fight for $15 invites all fast-food workers who have experienced sexual harassment on the job to get help via their new hotline: 844-384-4495. The email notes that Fight for $15 stands with "the brave workers who have filed suit against McDonald's for letting sexual harassment go unchecked in many of its stores." Its message stresses: "You deserve to be heard. And you are not alone." And the message adds: "No company should ever ignore — or worse, retaliate against — employees who speak up about harassment on the job. Period. When corporations shirk their responsibility to provide safe and fair workplaces, we stand up." (fightfor15.org, July 13)

Part 2

South Carolina prisons: Raising children from jail

This interview was conducted after an April 15 rebellion at Lee Correctional Institution, a South Carolina maximum security prison. It was the deadliest prison uprising since the Lucasville Uprising on April 11-21, 1993. (Workers World, tinyurl.com/y9grqhd7) Jared Ware spoke with individuals inside Lee, one of whom identified as a member of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, a group of imprisoned human rights advocates who have called for a National Prison Strike from Aug. 21 to Sept. 9.

The demands and support actions are at incarceratedworkers.org. The following is Part 2 of the interview. Part 1 is available at tinyurl.com/y8r9dd85.

By Jared Ware
Bishopville, S.C.



A South Carolina 'dehumanizing' prison.

The individuals, identified here as D and S to protect their identities and prevent retaliation by prison officials, point to the dehumanization of prisoners and challenge our conception of "gangs" — which do not take into account the ways in which incarcerated people are forced to create their own collective means for safety, survival and camaraderie in a situation where hope is the scarcest commodity. They urge the public to reconsider the nature and source of violence in prisons and the absence of human dignity and a rehabilitative environment. They present actionable solutions to mitigate some of the harm caused by prisons on our ultimate path toward shedding carceral responses to societal needs.

Jared Ware: Can you talk me through some of what happened in South Carolina prisons over the years [since Bill Clinton's 1996 Prison Litigation Reform Act and Antiterrorism Act]?

S: Prisoners got a lot of time to serve, but actually with nothing to do. When [prisons] took away all the privileges, they took away a lot of the programs. Stuff like that. It leads to just standing around with nothing to do, except to indulge in negative behavior and reactionary behavior, and just all different forms of escapism — whatever [prisoners] can do to pass the time.

[Prisons] drug test you so they can take away your privileges. Why do they need drug testing inside the prisons? People are already in here doing time. It's irrelevant. I can see if somebody's getting ready to go home for parole or something like that and you're going to test them. But just to constantly test them, that's kind of like a waste of money. They always waste their funds on things they don't need to waste their funds on.

We have no means of supporting ourselves because there's no state pay. Because we have no state pay [now], we have no way to eat. Even though [state pay] was just a little bit of money, it still was something. You could buy some hygiene [products].

When they do lockdown, they're supposed to give you showers Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, whatever the lockdown be for. But they don't ever honor it. They want to do one cell at a time, and it'll take you a whole week before you get a shower.

You have some prisons where the water system is messed up. Particularly at Lieber [Correctional Institute], their water system has been messed up forever. When you flush the toilet or pour your water, it smells like rotten eggs. They say it has sulfur in it or whatever, but it eats up the actual metal and causes mold and stuff to be all over the prison.

If they were to go do a tour through that prison right now, and they go all the way from the lock-up to the yard, the ceiling is falling in, metal hanging down. [Water is] dripping all over the place. Mold is all over the place. People who are in prison for 15 to 20 years are dying from cancer. But they don't have no cigarettes inside, you feel me?

We're confined to a cell a lot. They do a lot of counts and the counts always last for a long period of time. The purpose of counting is to make sure that we're here. In all reality, they should just count us and then let us back out for recreation. If you [are on] count from the time you eat dinner on a Friday night to your next meal on a Saturday, it's 17 or 18 hours before you get your next meal. And on the daily basis, you're talking about 12 to 13 hours from when you get your first meal to your next meal. That's almost like a half a day. That's a long time.

So you eat up all your [food purchased from the] canteen, which forces you to go the canteen and spend a lot of money on a bunch of junk that they price gouge. But this money is coming from family members who are out there working hard to help support you as well.

D: One of the things that has not fully been addressed in South Carolina is the nature and culture of disrespect from the officers inside the South Carolina Department of Corrections, as well. They have completely, in my eyes, mastered the art of dehumanizing prisoners. They intentionally went into an overdrive of taking the prisoners' clothes. Not only taking the prisoners' clothes, cutting the prisoners' hair the same way, had it to where you can't have your money in your pocket.

Just a number of things to take away your individuality. And in the process of taking away your individuality, they begin to treat you as if you were garbage. What I mean by treat you as garbage, just by dehumanizing us, it makes it easier for them to abuse us, and this abuse a lot of times takes place as physical abuse.

We had in the super max units out in Columbia, S.C., maybe about a year or two ago, guards bumrush a prisoner inside his cell, stab him up. We've always had a number of incidents with regards to them cuffing prisoners, then cutting prisoners up, slamming prisoners on their heads. In some cases we've had mysterious deaths in these maximum security prisons, some hangings that prisoners are clearly not comfortable with labelling as [suicide] hangings.

We've also had incidents where prisoners are no longer getting [recreation] at all. It's like every blue moon before we even see any sunlight or daylight to be able to get rec. That itself is causing a lot of attitude problems. A lot of aggressiveness.

When we talk about the food, we don't get any fruit, no real fruit anyway. At one time they actually had salad bars. They removed all of that over two decades ago. Now you get nothing. Some of the food is labeled "not for human consumption." So these are normal things that we are actually dealing with inside the prison system.

For visitation, there's no contact with your visitor, with your loved ones. One kiss in, one kiss out. Rather than a hug, sit down, embrace each other. Be in the comfort of each other's company. We're finding that is moving further and further away, and I'm very fearful that we're moving to the stage of video visits very soon, in the very near future.

Ware: Talk a bit about technology. Bryan Stirling [director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections] has, for at least a year now, been on this kick about getting cell phones out. There was this fairly high profile escape less than a year ago, and they blamed cell phones for that. And they're also blaming this riot on cell phones. They're talking about phone jammers. Talk a little bit about cell phones in relation to the prisons and what they mean or provide to prisoners and how realistic some of these narratives or fears being stated by SCDC are.

S: SCDC's main reason for not wanting the [cell] phones inside

Continued on page 4

Irish Senate passes bill

Solidarity with Palestine

By Christian Noakes

Seanad Éireann, the Senate of Ireland, passed the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 on July 11, which, if enacted, would make the purchase of goods and services from the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel illegal in the Republic of Ireland — the 26 counties where struggle ended centuries of British rule.

To become law the bill must also be passed by the Dáil, the lower house of the Irish parliament. Nonetheless, the passage by the Seanad is, in addition to being a significant step toward implementing the law, a symbolic victory and a testament to Irish-Palestinian solidarity. It also sets a precedent for transforming international consensus of the illegality of Israeli settlements into action.

While the right-wing Fine Gael government, currently in power, is opposed to the bill, it has otherwise enjoyed wide support. Along with Independent senators, like bill-sponsor Frances Black, the legislation was endorsed by members of Sinn Féin, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party.

The widespread support for the bill reflects the pervasiveness of Irish-Palestinian solidarity that stems in part from shared history and the material reality of settler colonialism. The causes of both Irish and Palestinian liberation are firmly rooted in the struggle against British imperialism.

Winston Churchill, who was British prime minister during World War II and then 1951-55, was central in the formation of the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries earlier in his political career. These are two British police forces used to terrorize and subject the Irish people to colonial rule. He also sent members of these state terrorist organizations to Palestine, where they treated Palestinians with similar brutality.

There are other cases of members of the British ruling class playing a repressive role in both Ireland and Palestine. Arthur Balfour served as chief secretary of Ireland, where he earned the nickname "Bloody Balfour" after ordering police to fire on a protest in Mitchelstown, County Cork, which killed three participants. He would go on to become the foreign secretary and author of the Balfour Declaration — a letter that established British intentions to prop up Zionist colonization of Palestine. ("Balfour's Shadow: A Century of British Support for Zionism and Israel" by David Cronin, University of Chicago Press, 2017)

British stronghold in Middle East

The parallels of ethnic/religious inequality, colonial expansion, partition, internment and violent repression were, in part, a result of conscious and concerted efforts by the British. As a stronghold of British imperialism in the Middle East, Israel was regarded, in the words of a British governor of Jerusalem before it was established, as a "Little Loyal Jewish Ulster."

Ulster is the part of Ireland still occupied by Britain, also known as the Six Counties. It was a stronghold for British imperialism, Loyalist colonization and occupation of Ireland. The settler colonial system of appropriation and dispossession was replicated and in some cases transplanted from Ireland to Palestine.

Although many in the U.S. see the struggle for Irish freedom as having been resolved, the conflict is far from over. The British ruling class and its bigoted colonizers exercise direct rule over many Irish people in the north of the island.

With "marching season" — an annual show of Loyalist, anti-Irish aggression from April to August — underway in the occupied Six Counties, located in the province of Ulster, the reality of settler colonialism and imperialism is again laid bare for all of Ireland. Loyalists have recently attacked the nationalist community of Short Strand in Belfast — including throwing a pipe bomb in an area where children had been playing moments before. (tinyurl.com/y6u3hrkc)

In Derry the Royal Ulster Constabulary/Police Service of Northern Ireland, an imperialist police force that has a long history of terrorizing the Irish community, have also attacked youth with potentially lethal plastic bullets — hitting one teenager in the throat.

It is in the material reality of this continued struggle and the history from which it emerges that the Irish and Palestinian causes are bound.

In response to the Seanad's support for the Occupied Territories Bill, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman has called for closure of the Israeli embassy in Dublin. Defense ministry spokesperson Emmanuel Nahshon also said the Irish Senate's act of solidarity was playing into a "dangerous and extreme anti-Israel boycott initiative."

The bill, however, would only outlaw goods produced in territories that are internationally recognized under the Fourth Geneva Convention as being illegally occupied. Under the two-state consensus, the bill would not entail a boycott of all goods and services produced by Israel; it only bans imports produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Israel's mischaracterization of the bill as a boycott of Israel is completely in character with a state that also lies by accusing those who speak out against its continued campaign of ethnic cleansing of being anti-Semitic. ☐

South Carolina prisons:

Raising children from jail

PART 2

Continued from page 3

the prison system is because the phones got camera access, video access, and the phones can expose the things that they do when they're using extreme force. The same way people are using cell phones out on the street when they're catching certain things that cops aren't supposed to be doing. They can be exposed. They can't hide when we've got the phones.

The prisoners utilize the [cell] phones to communicate with their family members. Because of the phone system that [SCDC has], the phone prices are entirely too high. Nobody would use that. They get money off it, too, and everybody knows that. Prisoners use the phone as a means of staying connected to their families, fathers staying connected to their children. Some fathers back here are raising their children from prison by staying in contact with them.



Lee Correctional Institution, a South Carolina maximum security prison.

So SCDC just wants the phones out of the prisons because they don't want to be exposed. They don't want the videos of the fights and stabbings to be shown. There's other things prisoners are shooting videos of. They're showing videos of the brown water. They show videos of the mold inside the buildings. They show videos of the prisoner who's been dead in the bed for two hours and the guard ain't come and check on the man yet. So it's a fly on the wall [watching] them. That's why they don't want the [phones] in here. ☐

Anti-Trump protests sweep Britain

Continued from page 1

far right in Britain pushed a racist anti-migrant campaign as the driving force of the referendum to leave the EU, which passed narrowly. Implementing Brexit will restrict immigration to Britain from EU countries and harm migrants and refugees.

Sheffield mayor bans Trump

In another sign of resistance, the mayor of Sheffield, Magid Magid, a Somali immigrant, banned Trump from the city and named July 13 "Mexico Solidarity Day."

Some 4,000 marched against Trump that day in Sheffield and in Manchester, while 1,500 came out in Leeds and 1,000 in Birmingham.

The Scottish Labor Party and Scottish Green Party said Trump was not welcome in their country because of the horrific mistreatment of migrant children, locked in cages at the U.S./Mexico border.

In Scotland, 10,000 people gathered in Glasgow and also in Edinburgh, the country's capital, on July 14, calling Trump a "racist" and a "liar." The U.S. president was even dogged as he played golf at one of his luxury resorts in Turnberry. Protesters there could be heard chanting, "No Trump! No KKK! No racist U.S.A.!" Activists in Scotland are encouraging people in the U.S. to fight the Trump regime because his actions have "global impact."

Jonathon Shafi, of Scotland Against Trump, expressed solidarity with people in the U.S. and said: "It's not acceptable that a president talks about grabbing women, separates children from their families and gives encouragement to fascist, racists, misogynists and homophobes. We are against Trump and his divisive regime." (cbsnews.com, July 14)

And in Wales, hundreds protested in Swansea, Cardiff city center and outside the Senedd, the National Assembly building in Cardiff Bay. Catherine Fookes, director of Wales Women's Equality Network, said the protests showed "Wales is against the casual racism and sexism of Trump." (bbc.com, July 12)

Outside Belfast City Hall in the north of Ireland, several hundred rallied. There, People Before Profit councilor Gerry Carroll said thousands would turn out if Trump visited Belfast, as residents deplore everything he represents.

The size, militancy and determination of the anti-Trump demonstrations will buoy people's movements fighting against all forms of bigotry, xenophobia, sexism, environmental destruction, austerity and war. These large, spirited protests show that the potential exists for a strong united fightback against the forces of reaction in Britain. ☐

WW SUPPORTER PROGRAM

Continue defense of Cuban Revolution

On July 26, 1953, Cuban revolutionaries stormed the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba. Less than six years later, Fidel and his guerrillas ousted the U.S.-backed dictatorship, marching into Havana in early January 1959.

That same year, Workers World newspaper began to publish. After more than a decade of anti-communist reaction in the U.S., the Cuban Revolution helped revive interest in revolutionary socialism. The more outrageous the anti-Cuba propaganda in the corporate press, the harder Workers World has worked to tell the truth about this great victory over U.S. imperialism.

In 1961, when the U.S. announced that it was breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba, WW's first editor, Vince Copeland, led a protest inside the United Nations, his booming voice proclaiming the U.S. "speaks for the bankers, not the people."

In the early 1990s, Cuba endured great economic hardships after the Soviet Union fell and the U.S. tightened its blockade. Workers World helped build the Peace for Cuba International Appeal to end the blockade, the travel ban and all intervention against Cuba.

Despite the choking blockade, the Cuban Revolution only grows stronger and more respected as it sends life-saving medical teams all over the world. As the Trump administration increases its hostility to the socialist country, Workers World remains dedicated to defending revolutionary Cuba. Donations from WW supporters have helped get our pro-Cuba writings in print, distributed and posted at workers.org.

We invite you to join the 41-year-old WW Supporter Program to help us continue to publish articles in solidarity with workers and oppressed peoples worldwide and in opposition to U.S. wars. The newspaper is a source of anti-racist, anti-sexist, pro-LGBTQ news and working-class truth, while it supports immigrants, opposes Islamophobia and helps build pro-socialist campaigns.

To join, write checks to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011. Or donate at workers.org/donate/. Supporters who contribute $75 a year receive a year's subscription, a monthly letter and five free subscriptions. Sponsors who contribute $100 also get a book published by World View Forum. Sustainers who contribute $300 or more receive five books. Thanks for your help in building the revolutionary press in the U.S. ☐

A short history of NATO — a bosses' alliance

By John Catalinotto

Because a misogynist, xenophobic and openly racist enemy of humanity like the U.S. president criticized NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) at the July 11-12 Brussels Summit, someone might get the false impression that NATO is worth defending. Far from it.

Whatever Donald Trump's long-term goal regarding NATO, assuming he has one, the alliance is an enemy of the world's people and always has been.

A look at its members and its history shows why.



NATO consists of …

For most of its history, NATO has included all the major imperialist powers except Japan and Australia. Members have been the United States, France, Britain, Italy and Canada from 1949 on, and Germany since 1955, when it was West Germany. These six plus Japan make up the G7 countries that currently set economic rules for the world.

NATO also includes smaller countries that are long-standing members of the imperialist world — like Spain, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark and tiny Iceland. Greece and Turkey are also in NATO.

The major NATO powers are imperialist countries because their corporate and financial ruling classes, mainly through their banks, control the bulk of the world's wealth. The capital under their control is used to exploit labor and extract resources throughout the world.

Until World War II, Britain and France directly ruled vast parts of Africa and Asia in the form of colonies. Germany held colonies too, but fewer than those two powers. The Netherlands, Belgium and even tiny Denmark held colonies larger than the home countries.

The major NATO countries are now in possession of cutting-edge technologies, control mass media, manufacture powerful weapons and are the most heavily armed. They sell weapons to the world, but keep the most advanced weapons for themselves.

Through their control of the world market, currency exchanges and banking, and with their technological advantages, these seven countries now directly and indirectly oppress most of the world.

Of the G7 countries, the imperialist United States, with the largest single national economy and by far the greatest military power, is the most dangerous to humanity.

NATO's role 1949-89

During the first half of the 20th century, these predatory states battled for markets, colonies and raw materials. In their rivalry, they launched two world wars that together killed 100 to 200 million people — mostly workers, peasants and other toilers.

After World War II ended, the class of plunderers and robbers ruling those countries saw that, while they had been fighting each other, a third of humanity had liberated itself from their grip.

The Russian Revolution, which ended World War I, also survived the onslaught of Nazi Germany. World War II ended in Europe with the Yugoslav and Albanian revolutions and the Soviet Red Army's march to Berlin. By 1949, all of China was liberated and half of Korea. The Vietnamese people were winning against the French.

There was revolutionary civil war in Greece. Colonial regimes were beginning to crumble around the world. The working class in France and Italy seemed on the edge of taking power in these countries where the communist parties had organized the workers' armed resistance to fascism.

So in 1949, Washington, by far the dominant imperialist power then, founded NATO to prevent workers' revolutions in war-ravaged Western Europe and to confront the Soviet Union and its allies in Eastern Europe. Only in 1955 did the Soviet Union establish the Warsaw Pact with its allies in Eastern Europe.

NATO's reactionary role included planning a military coup in Greece in 1967 that lasted until 1974. It is suspected of participating in a 1968-82 "strategy of tension" in Italy, when clandestine rightist groupings in the Italian ruling class and state carried out terrorist attacks. In 1975, NATO sent warships to intervene in Portugal to prevent the working class there from opening a struggle for socialism, after a revolution ousted the fascist regime.

The U.S. president always chooses the NATO commander, and the general in charge is always from the Pentagon. Therefore, NATO has always been a tool of U.S. imperialist policy. It remains such, despite Trump's complaints.

New NATO role: World capitalist cop

In 1990, during negotiations between the U.S. and Soviet leaders to end the Cold War, Washington promised not to move NATO eastward. NATO's declared purpose up to that time was to "defend member nations from threats by communist countries." This purpose was seemingly ending with the Soviet Union's impending disintegration in 1991 and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

But since 1991, far from dissolving NATO, Washington has insisted that the military pact expand, while remaining under U.S. command.

U.S. policy turned NATO into a type of imperialist police force. No longer confined to Europe, NATO has become a worldwide intervention force at the service of the transnational monopolies that exploit global labor and resources.

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined NATO in April 1999. This expansion coincided with the U.S.-NATO air war in the Balkans that destroyed the sovereign and multinational country of Yugoslavia.

The imperialists still lie about the reasons for the war on Yugoslavia, claiming it was to defend Kosovo, a majority-Muslim area. In his book, "Waging Modern Warfare," 1999 NATO commander Gen. Wesley Clark admitted that the Kosovo war was "coercive diplomacy ... much more like the interventions of an earlier era" — that is, before World War II, at a time when imperialist powers openly occupied colonies and protectorates. (p. 418)

The former Yugoslavia — once a state representing about 20 million Balkan peoples — was broken into seven mini-states that are easy picking for West European and U.S. imperialism.

Other U.S.-led NATO military interventions followed. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in Central Asia starting in 2001, using the pretext of the 9/11 attack and invoking Article 5 of the NATO charter calling for collective defense. The occupation continues with NATO aid.

In 2011, with the flimsiest of pretexts, NATO attacked and destroyed Libya. That same year NATO countries also sabotaged and subverted the Damascus government in Syria.

The destruction that these interventions brought about have horribly exacerbated the refugee crisis that continues today.

France and Germany balked at joining the U.S.-British invasion of Iraq in 2003 because their governments believed it a dangerous and foolish endeavor. For that reason, NATO didn't begin that disaster. Later, however, many NATO states aided the occupation of Iraq, even though it was an open secret that the U.S. pretext for war — the claim of Iraqi "weapons of mass destruction" — was a lie.

NATO's latest expansion

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were admitted to NATO in 2004. Albania and Croatia acceded to the alliance in 2009. There are now 29 members, plus other countries like Sweden that have a special relation with NATO.

NATO apologists claim the alliance defends freedom and human rights. On the contrary, NATO's role is now to reconquer those areas of the world that had gained some independence from imperialism during the existence of the Soviet Union.

To confront the onslaught of U.S. imperialism, it is necessary to say both "Down with Trump!" and, equally, "No to NATO!"

Catalinotto, a managing editor of Workers World newspaper, co-edited the book "Hidden Agenda: U.S./NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia," New York: International Action Center, 2001.

Prime Day strike in Spain, Germany

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Amazon's biggest sales day of the year is now Prime Day, a two-day online shopping spree that this year falls on July 16 and 17. Begun four years ago, the sale is expected to haul in $3.4 billion for the company in 2018, up from an estimated $2.4 billion a year ago. (Washington Post, July 16)

But on this Prime Day, Amazon workers represented by unions in Spain and Germany slashed Amazon profits by going on strike. As the workers withheld their labor — and the company site got hit with an unexpected computer glitch — financial analysts lamented the negative impact on Amazon's business.

Nearly 1,800 Amazon workers in Spain struck for three days beginning July 16, and thousands more in six German facilities for one day on July 17. Germany is Amazon's second largest national market after the U.S. (tinyurl.com/y9y3tv82)

The strikers are mostly warehouse workers, who fulfill internet orders under oppressive time limits, dangerous working conditions and almost-too-low-to-live-on wages.

Amazon's service workers are represented by Comisiones Obreras in Spain and Verdi in Germany. European labor unions have been aggressive in demanding workers' right at Amazon's warehouses.

Usually, European warehouse workers strike Amazon during the winter holiday season. According to the Washington Post, hundreds went on strike in Italy and Germany in November 2017, saying they were under "high pressure to create more and more, in less time."

Reinforcing the European unions' call to boycott Amazon on Prime Day, international worker solidarity was put in motion by several U.S. advocacy groups, including the Action Center on Race and the Economy. They appealed to workers and consumers to boycott Amazon on the #PrimeDayofAction and to refuse to shop at Amazon-owned Whole Foods Market. The groups are also calling for a boycott of Amazon because of its sale of Nazi, Confederate and white supremacist items through third-party sellers.



Posted by Spanish union members at an Amazon fulfillment center near Madrid, this sign calls for #HuelgaAmazon/#Amazon Strike.

PHOTO: CCOO

For conditions of Amazon workers in the U.S., see Workers World's interview with an Indiana worker at an Amazon warehouse: tinyurl.com/y7pg9hx9/. □

WORKERS WORLD
editorial

The future is now

Not so very long ago, the political pundits and economic gurus whose analyses are given plenty of space in the corporate media were predicting that the high-tech revolution then beginning to accelerate would elevate industrial workers in this country into the "middle class," able to earn more money while leaving behind the dirty, dangerous jobs replaced by automation.

This rosy view of the future for the working class was debunked by Sam Marcy, the then chairperson of Workers World Party, in his 1986 book, "High Tech, Low Pay: A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class." Marcy's analysis was later updated by Fred Goldstein in two more books, "Low-Wage Capitalism" (2008) and "Capitalism at a Dead End" (2012). (For more info on books see workers.org and lowwagecapitalism.com.)

The economic facts and figures that now have bourgeois economists scratching their heads completely confirm what these Marxist revolutionaries explained beginning more than three decades ago. The high-tech revolution raises the promise of a future world of abundance and ease — but such a life can be achieved by the masses of people only if capitalism is abolished.

Look at what has really happened. Yes, many, many jobs that used to exist in manufacturing, mining, retail sales, communications, office work, transportation, agriculture and more are now obsolete. The owners of the means of production have shed human labor at a prodigious rate in the pursuit of ever greater profits. Millionaires have become billionaires in the process. But what about the workers?

As the title of Marcy's book suggests, high tech has actually deskilled or eliminated altogether millions of jobs. The result is lower wages and a precarious existence for more and more workers.

Along with the view that everyone was becoming middle class was the idea peddled to the labor movement that workers and bosses need each other and should collaborate for a brighter future. Bosses certainly do need workers — until they're ready to replace them with a new machine or better computer program. There would be no profits without workers, because profits come from the value workers produce above what they are paid in compensation for their labor. (Another Marxist concept that bosses deny.)

But do workers need bosses?

More and more young workers are saying no. They are starting to envision a socialist world where it is bosses, not workers, who will be obsolete.

In the meantime, the conditions for workers become ever more desperate as part-time, low-wage, no-benefits jobs replace full-time, permanent jobs at union wages.

The bosses are our enemies, not our partners. Trump is the epitome of the "benevolent" billionaire who promises the moon while robbing the shirts off our backs.

There's only one answer to this, and it's not class collaboration. It's class struggle. Not a new idea, but one that has stood the test of time and is what is needed now. Let the stirring teachers' strikes of this spring set the example for what is necessary and possible. □

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL
on
U.S. Colonial Crimes in
PUERTO RICO

Save the date
October 27, 2018
HOLYROOD CHURCH / IGLESIA SANTA CRUZ
715 West 179th Street • New York • NY 10033
Tribunal to bring charges against the U.S. for 120 years of Colonialism in Puerto Rico with all the manifestions of that initial crime



We charge the U.S.:

With the destruction of the Puerto Rican economy; with the repression of its historical struggle for liberation, the independence movement, and its freedom heroes;

With the imposition of a parasitic economic model that undermined self-sufficiency, including food self-sufficiency so basic to survival;



With the imposition of a citizenship that facilitated the flow of cheap labor and cannon fodder in their bloody wars;



With the imposition of an illegitimate debt and a Fiscal Control Board with members that represent the same ones who caused this debacle, as wolves taking care of sheep;



With the current crisis – after the ravaging hurricanes Irma and Maria – a crisis made immeasurably worse by U.S. colonial policies that prioritize capital over the most basic of human needs and the health of the planet.



We charge the U.S. government with criminal neglect in its response to the devastation of the hurricanes, driving people from their homeland with a sinister plan to restructure Puerto Rico.



PuertoRicoTribunal.org
TribunalPuertoRico@gmail.com

Rank-and-file fight-back

United Parcel Service workers, represented by the Teamsters, are currently in contract negotiations with the company. On June 5, union members voted by a 93 percent margin to strike if an agreement could not be reached. Members could also strike if an agreement between the union negotiating committees and management is voted down. Existing contracts expire on July 31.

On July 10 and 12, the Teamsters negotiating committees announced agreements in principle with UPS and UPS Freight on new contracts. Now that the union negotiating team has reached a "handshake deal" with management, the contract offers must be sent to UPS Teamster-represented members for approval, which can take several weeks. Fifty percent plus one of the votes cast must be "yes" to obtain ratification.

A "Vote No" momentum has emerged, and is being promoted by the Teamsters United caucus and some union locals because of concessions obtained by management in the announced agreements. The concessions include a 70-hour workweek, poverty wages for part-timers and unlimited subcontracting of work. UPS, now making $6 billion a year in profits, is at present the largest union employer in North America, with about 260,000 Teamster-represented drivers, loaders, unloaders, sorters, clerks and others.

The following excerpt, titled "Decades of rank-and-file fight-back," about the militant UPS strike of 1997 is from Chapter 11 of "Low-Wage Capitalism" by Fred Goldstein (World View Forum, 2008).

See more at lowwagecapitalism.com.

— WW Staff

UPS Teamsters 1997 strike

The slide in union membership, the decline of wages, and the general deterioration of living conditions for the working class, as well as the increase in racism and national oppression, the wave of anti-immigrant attacks, and all the other setbacks during the last three decades and more, were not inevitable. They were avoidable.

The underlying relationship of class forces in U.S. capitalist society was not objectively so unfavorable to the working class that it had no way to overcome the anti-labor offensive. Nor is further decline inevitable, even in the face of capitalist crisis.

What has contributed to the feeling of inevitability about the retreat of the labor movement and the workers in general has been the steadfast refusal by the AFL-CIO leadership, including the Change to Win leadership that set up a parallel federation in 2005, to muster the latent power of the workers and the oppressed in a true test of strength with the ruling class.

To be sure, there are undoubtedly thousands of local union leaders, delegates, shop stewards, labor council members, as well as rank-and-file militants throughout the labor movement, in every part of the country, who have been straining at the bit to launch a fight-back. Such militancy has manifested itself over and over again in struggles during the 1980s up until the present day. What will revive the labor movement is when these forces are able to multiply, organize, and gain the upper hand.

1997: UPS teamsters strike

The strike against United Parcel Service was a powerful one that fought to reverse concessions, which had begun in 1982. The company had won the right to create a two-tier, part-time system of employment.

In August of 1997 the 185,000 members of the UPS division of the Teamsters union waged a 15-day strike that electrified the labor movement and the working class as a whole. Despite compromises made in the final settlement, it was understood, rightly so, as the first major victory for a significant section of the working class after two decades of defeat and retreat.

The strike was led by Teamsters President Ron Carey, who had democratized the union during his tenure. It was won by meticulous planning for a genuine class struggle, bringing in the rank-and-file at every stage.

The struggle was popular in the union movement and among the working class as a whole because it was projected as a struggle against part-time and low-wage work — not just for UPS workers, but for the working class as a whole. Sixty percent of the 185,000 UPS workers were part-time workers who earned only $9 per hour, as opposed to $19.95 an hour, plus benefits, for full-time workers.

The UPS Teamster leadership prepared for the strike for over a year. In formulating their bargaining position, the leadership of the UPS division sent a questionnaire to all 185,000 workers asking for their views on the most important issues. Full-time jobs were the overwhelming priority for the workers. In addition, 10,000 of these workers were receiving part-time pay but were working 35 hours or more a week.

The union collected 100,000 signatures on a petition supporting its demands. It distributed the union's position at workplaces, sports events, and other sites long in advance. It prepared a strong strike apparatus.

Once the negotiations were underway, the union sent a video to all UPS shop stewards to keep them up to date. During the strike, the union updated its web site every few hours, faxed bulletins to Teamster locals, and set up a toll-free hotline for strikers.

The negotiations were to begin in July of 1997 but rallies were organized around the country beginning in March and continued to multiply up until the strike deadline. Carey had even gone to Germany and France and worked with the UPS unions there to support the strike.

The battle-ready rank-and-file wins

When the UPS rank-and-file marched into battle they were thoroughly unified, highly organized, and prepared for struggle against a ruthless corporate giant with a world empire.

The strike was won through a major test of strength between labor and capital. The AFL-CIO leadership supported the strike, and John Sweeney promised to back the Teamsters' strike benefit fund with $10 million a week.

During the strike President Bill Clinton was under pressure — from not only UPS but also Wall Street — to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act. The strength and broad popularity of the UPS workers pushed the Clinton administration back, even though Clinton finally pressured a settlement and

Continued on page 7

France

And if this is just the beginning?

By Rémy Herrera
Paris, France

July 12 — The arrival of summer, synonymous with vacations, is eagerly awaited by all workers. Those eager include workers fighting for justice, who know their struggles will be placed on hold for two months until the start of the school year in September. This time, however, due to the social turmoil that has shaken the country since the beginning of the year, it is mainly the government that found time passing too slowly before the summer holidays.

In the halls of power, some are certainly convinced they have won the war. They mean the social war launched against the people by the capitalists — who on July 3 selected a pure descendant of the French nobility, Geoffroy Roux de Bézieux, to be the head of their employers' organization (MEDEF) — and their devoted president and "monarch" Emmanuel Macron. Despite their convictions, everything indicates that the main confrontation is still ahead. Things are just beginning to get serious.

Neoliberal forces — those wanting to privatize everything and cut jobs — are already in battle order. They are ready for the next offensive, which will attempt pension "reform," a new stage in the demolition of workers' social protection.

For that task, they appointed a "high commissioner," Jean-Paul Delevoye. He is a right-winger, a former minister under Jacques Chirac with more than 80 years of cumulative mandates in politics. He recently joined the current president's party, La République en marche! Delevoye is charged with preparing a draft pension law that the government will present to Parliament in 2019 as part of the Action Plan for Company Growth and Transformation, called the PACTE.

Under the pretext of "harmonizing" pension plans by "aligning" public sector plans with those in the private sector, the aim is to promote retirement savings markets as called for by the banks and insurance companies. The proposal would freeze contributions, thus condemning pension balances to fall as the number of pensioners and life expectancy increase.

There will be no guaranteed pension levels for savers. These instead would be entrusted to the vagaries of stock market returns. Nor would savers be guaranteed recovery of their savings! It is indeed a hidden privatization of the pension system that is envisioned [something like a 401k in the United States].

In addition to capturing part of these pension savings, the proposal jeopardizes the financing of Social Security in France. Globalized finance — and pension fund managers, frustrated since the 2008 crisis by close to zero interest rates — are rubbing their hands like flies on a piece of sugar! After all, isn't that why they choose Macron?

A fair system?

A fair system would guarantee everyone continuity of their best career standard of living when they move from work to retirement. The European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development recommend capitalization, that is, the kinds of steps in Macron's "reform."

Despite this recommendation, the French system still operates largely — and fortunately — on a pay-as-you-go basis. Current contributions finance current pensions and these contributions constitute future pension rights, thanks to intergenerational solidarity and the obligation for all who work to contribute. This pay-as-you-go regime, with guaranteed benefits, is secure because it is financed by contributions from wages throughout the country. This takes place without recourse to financial markets, and thus without the risk of a stock market catastrophe.

It is this solidarity that years of neoliberalism have weakened but failed to dismantle. It is this regime that President Macron wants to destroy as a service to the financiers. It is this pension system that workers in France will soon have to defend, to make it stronger and universal. Pensions do not present a demographic issue, based simply on the age distribution of the population, but rather a social justice issue. Society has a fundamental choice: either solidarity for all or each one for themself.

The ruling elites, arrogant and sustained by a balance of power historically favorable to capital, must nonetheless remember that, in 1995, the largest popular mobilizations since the general strike of 10 million workers in May 1968 were launched precisely to defend pensions. Powerful strikes paralyzed the country for more than a month (November-December) that year and, under the pressure of two million demonstrators, forced the government (then of Alain Juppé, Jacques Chirac's prime minister) to abandon its "reform."

But in 2010, under Nicolas Sarkozy, three million more demonstrators were not enough to stop the infernal neoliberal machine. How many millions will have to be in struggle in 2019 to force Macron to order a retreat?

Herrera is a Marxist economist, a researcher at the Centre national de la Recherche scientifique (CNRS), who works at the Centre d'Économie de la Sorbonne, Paris. WW staff translated this article.

Rank-and-file fight-back
UPS Teamsters 1997 strike

Continued from page 6

leaned on the union to compromise.

Nevertheless, the UPS workers forced the company to agree to turn 10,000 part-time workers into full-time employees, won raises for the lower-paid workers, and warded off an attack on pension funding.

The ruling-class counterattacks

The forward momentum of the workers' struggle arising out of the UPS strike was soon undermined, however. Immediately after the strike, the government framed up Carey on charges of illegally funneling funds to his union election campaign fund. A federal court cleared him of all the charges, but a so-called Independent Review Board got Carey barred for life from running for Teamster office.

This board had been set up by the Justice Department in 1989 to oversee the Teamsters. It was headed by William Webster, a former director of both the CIA and the FBI. The Democratic National Committee cooperated with the frame-up, despite the fact that the AFL-CIO leadership, including Carey, had poured hundreds of millions of dollars into getting Clinton elected.

Fearing a government attack, the AFL-CIO leadership left Carey to face the frame-up and ouster alone. Instead of standing up and challenging the government to indict the entire top leadership of the union movement, and preparing the rank-and-file to defend the leader who had launched the biggest union challenge to big business in two decades, they abandoned the struggle.

The forward momentum gained by the militant mass struggle of 185,000 workers, backed by workers everywhere, soon died down. What the mass struggle had won was diminished by the craven retreat of the leadership. □

Demanding jobs, rollback of prices
Outraged Haitians shut down streets for days

By G. Dunkel

Politicians in Haiti thought they had a bright idea. Since people were following the World Cup soccer match between Brazil and Belgium on July 6, rooting deeply for Brazil, they would choose that time to obey the International Monetary Fund and raise the price of fuel by 38 percent for gasoline, 47 percent for diesel and 51 percent for kerosene.

This attack on the living standards of the masses, they thought, would be ignored in the jubilation and joy over Brazil's victory.

But Brazil lost. Within minutes the masses were in the streets, erecting and burning barricades of tires, car bodies, debris and garbage to block traffic of cars and motorcycles. Whole neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince — Pétionville, Delmas, Lalue, Nazon, Champs-de-mars, Canapé-vert — were made inaccessible. Protesters also took to the streets in such cities as Cap Haïtien, Petit Goâve, Cayes, Jérémie, Jacmel and l'Artibonite. In Petit Goâve the courthouse was burned and the entryway to the tax office was set on fire.

In well-off neighborhoods of Port au Prince and Pétionville, luxury cars and apartment buildings were singled out, as well as offices and supermarkets constructed after the devastating 2010 earthquake with money that had been designated to rebuild the country. A particular target was the splendid and super-luxurious Royal Oasis Hotel in Pétionville, which got $2 million from Bill Clinton out of funds supposedly for reconstruction.

Because of the popular anger running through the streets, the barricades and the attacks on cars and offices, a number of airlines canceled flights to Haiti. The U.S. Embassy ordered its staff to shelter in place and sent for a special squad of Marine security. The Canadian Embassy also stepped up security.



Al Jazeera on July 14 reported that seven people had lost their lives in the struggle,
while other news sources, like Haïti-Liberté of July 11, reported just a few dead, one a cop attempting to clear a barricade.

According to the Miami Herald of July 7, damage to fiber optic lines caused many cell phone and internet users in Port-au-Prince to lose service. A call for a general strike on July 7-9 was widely followed, even though it was not clear if a particular union was involved or just an ad hoc committee trying give some leadership to the struggle.

Marie Laurette Numa writing in the July 11 Haïti-Liberté made a very interesting point. Cops were so scarce in Port-au-Prince that there weren't enough to protect all the goods of the bourgeoisie, which the masses were attacking. She had a possible explanation: "Some cops coming from the exploited masses have solidarized themselves with a cause linked to their class background, leaving the masses to cope with the country's rapacious vultures."

While this struggle doesn't have a clear, established leadership, it has had a definite political impact. Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant resigned on July 14 after it became clear that merely withdrawing the fuel price increases wasn't going to tamp down popular discontent. This effectively leaves Haiti without a functioning government, although soon an interim prime minister is expected.

Underlying this popular uprising is the extreme poverty of Haiti, which is by far the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and the rapacious greed of its ruling class.

According to the World Bank, which is one of the most important tools of world imperialist rule, 24 percent of all Haitians live under the extreme poverty line of $1.23 a day, while 59 percent live under the "regular" poverty line of $2.41 a day. The wealthy Haitians who do the bidding of the imperialists receive so large an income that Haiti is rated the most unequal country in the world.

Haitians went into the streets because their conditions are intolerable and they are fighting to survive. □

WORKERS WORLD
MUNDO OBRERO

Correspondencia sobre artículos en Workers World/Mundo Obrero pueden ser enviadas a: WW-MundoObrero@workers.org

¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los paises unios! workers.org Vol. 60 Núm. 29 19 de julio 2018 $1



MO/WW EDITORIAL 12 DE JULIO

Guerra arancelaria de Trump ataca trabajadoras/es

Por G. Dunkel

La administración de Trump impuso aranceles a las 12:01 a.m. del 6 de julio a productos chinos con un valor de $34 mil millones. El gobierno chino respondió de inmediato con sus propios aranceles sobre la carne de cerdo, la soja y los automóviles de EUA.

"Las acciones equivocadas de EUA han violado descaradamente las reglas de la Organización Mundial del Comercio, atacaron la sostenibilidad económica mundial y obstaculizaron la recuperación de la economía mundial", dijo Lu Kang, vocero del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de China, en una conferencia de prensa. "Será desastroso para las corporaciones multinacionales, las pequeñas y medianas empresas y las/os consumidores corrientes en todo el mundo".

El Ministerio de Comercio de China afirmó que Estados Unidos "ha lanzado la mayor guerra comercial en la historia económica hasta ahora." (New York Times, 6 de julio).

Trump está amenazando con imponer aranceles sobre bienes que actualmente son importados cada año de China por un valor de $450 mil millones. También ha impuesto aranceles a los bienes importados de México y Canadá, así como de la Unión Europea. Un arancel es básicamente un impuesto a los bienes importados en un país.

Trump argumenta que los aranceles sobre el acero y el aluminio son necesarios para reforzar la producción estadounidense y "proteger la seguridad nacional estadounidense", ya que los metales son necesarios en la producción de armas. También argumenta que los aranceles "protegerán" y generarán empleos a las/os trabajadores en estas industrias.

Lo que es indiscutible es que los precios subirán para las/os trabajadores. El acero y el aluminio se utilizan para crear una gran cantidad de productos básicos, desde latas para alimentos hasta edificios y puentes, y el acero y el aluminio serán más caros con los aranceles. La guerra arancelaria de Trump ha condenado a las/os trabajadores estadounidenses con precios más altos, lo que afecta particularmente a las/os jubilados y a quienes tienen ingresos fijos, sin importar el impacto en general a la economía.

Pero una mirada más cercana a los aranceles, así como a la tecnología de fabricación, muestra cómo las/os trabajadores estadounidenses también serán golpeadas/os por la pérdida de empleos.

Aranceles y tecnología afectan trabajadoras/es

Si bien los aranceles podrían ser un impulso para los fabricantes de acero y aluminio, otras compañías que utilizan estos metales - que eran más baratos cuando se importaban - perderán y tendrán que recortar empleos.

La tarifa de Trump para el acero y el aluminio afectará con mayor fuerza las importaciones procedentes de Canadá, principal proveedor de EUA en 2017, especialmente en la industria automotriz estadounidense. Un estudio del 2004 de la Asociación de Transporte Fronterizo muestra que 257.000 empleos en Michigan y $13 mil millones en producción anual dependen de los enlaces de producción entre Detroit y la ciudad fronteriza de Windsor en Ontario.

La General Motors declaró el 28 de junio que una nueva ola de aranceles sobre sus productos podría conducir a "menos inversión, menos empleos y salarios más bajos". Las/os trabajadores encontrarían que los precios de los automóviles aumentarían sustancialmente, y el costo de los automóviles menos costosos sería el más elevado. Las/os trabajadores perderán puestos de trabajo ya que los precios más altos conducen a una reducción en las ventas.

El Mercatus Center, un compañía de investigación de mercados de la Universidad George Mason, señala: "Como resultado de los nuevos impuestos a la importación de acero, el fabricante de clavos más grande de los Estados Unidos está a punto de cerrar. La compañía Mid-Continent Nail, con sede en Missouri, ya ha despedido al 12 por ciento de su fuerza de trabajo. "Mid-Continent representa una pequeña parte de la economía de EUA, pero su dilema muestra cómo una guerra arancelaria puede impactar a las/os trabajadores aquí.

Históricamente, la tarifa de Smoot-Hawley, que entró en vigor en 1930 y ciertamente contribuyó a la severidad de la Gran Depresión, redujo el comercio internacional en más del 60 por ciento. El economista Paul Krugman estima que los nuevos aranceles de los Estados Unidos y las respuestas a ellos podrían reducir el comercio internacional en un 70 por ciento. Eso significa que los 10 millones de trabajadoras/es de Estados Unidos que participan en el comercio internacional podrían enfrentar grandes pérdidas de empleos como resultado. (New York Times, 17 de junio)

Incluso si los aranceles aplicados a los competidores extranjeros aumentan las ganancias de las empresas de acero y aluminio con sede en los EUA, no hay evidencia de que estas empresas contraten a más trabajadoras/es.

Los avances tecnológicos en la fabricación significa que menos trabajadoras/es pueden producir más bienes, y el uso de la tecnología continúa reforzando esa tendencia. De acuerdo con la Sociedad Americana de Ingeniería Mecánica (ASME por siglas en inglés): "En 2015, la producción manufacturera por trabajador/a fue de $482.242; por el contrario, cada trabajador/a en 2000 produjo $336.847 en dólares de 2015. En 1976, la producción ajustada a la inflación fue de solo $276.525". (Tinyurl.com/y9fy9f7r)

ASME señala que, con el aumento de la automatización de las fábricas, entre 2000 y 2016, las/os trabajadores estadounidenses perdieron 5 millones de empleos, incluso cuando la producción manufacturera creció.

Entonces, si los aranceles pudieran eliminar todos los déficits comerciales de manufactura con otros países, eso aún no se acercaría a la pérdida de empleos perdidos por la tecnología.

Necesaria acción independiente de trabajadoras/es

En Bretaña, que enfrenta un arancel del 25 por ciento sobre su acero, el sindicato de trabajadores siderúrgicos - que se llama Community (Comunidad) - señaló que aunque estos aranceles ofrecerán a las empresas siderúrgicas estadounidenses cierta protección en un momento en que hay una superproducción del acero a nivel mundial, pondrá en peligro los empleos de las/os trabajadores.

Roy Rickhuss, el secretario general de Community, dijo: "Esta noticia es muy preocupante para la industria siderúrgica del Reino Unido. Donald Trump está poniendo en riesgo puestos de trabajo en ambos lados del Atlántico". (Community-tu.org)

El sindicato United Steelworkers representa a trabajadoras/es tanto en los Estados Unidos como en Canadá. Su presidente Leo Gerard generalmente apoya las políticas comerciales de Trump, pero quiere que Canadá quede exenta. En la actualidad, Trump se opone a las exenciones, por lo que algunas/os miembros del USW, es decir, las/os trabajadores de los EUA dedicados a la producción de acero, se beneficiarían de las políticas tarifarias, mientras que las/os trabajadores de Canadá no.

El gobierno estadounidense está en proceso de renegociar el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte. El TLCAN ha regulado el comercio entre Canadá, México y los EUA desde el 1 de enero de 1994. Este comercio asciende a $600 mil millones al año. El TLCAN le dio una apertura a la agricultura estadounidense que le permitió aniquilar a millones de agricultoras/es mexicanos, a la vez que le brindó a los fabricantes estadounidenses un acceso más fácil a las/os trabajadores de bajos salarios. También intensificó la dominación estadounidense de la más pequeña economía canadiense.

A pesar de las ventajas del flujo fácil de bienes y servicios para los capitalistas en ambos lados de la frontera, Trump ha amenazado con alejarse del TLC si no se reconfigura para favorecer aún más a los EUA.

En lugar de exigir exenciones de los aranceles que afectan a algunos de sus miembros, los sindicatos deben defender los intereses de todas/os los trabajadores. Como escribió el fundador del Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero Sam Marcy en 1993 sobre el papel de los sindicatos: "Seguir (con la política comercial de los EUA) es convertirse en un socio silencioso del papel devastador del capital financiero de EUA en el exterior y en aquí en EUA. ... El objetivo real del sindicalismo debería ser forjar un acuerdo de solidaridad entre los sindicatos" internacionalmente. (tinyurl.com/y9jynjrh)

En las palabras del himno de las/os trabajadores "Solidaridad para siempre":

"Cuando la inspiración del sindicato a través de la sangre de los obreros corra,

No habrá ningún poder mayor en ningún lugar bajo el sol;

Sin embargo, qué fuerza en la tierra es más débil que la débil fuerza de uno,

Pero el sindicato nos hace fuertes".

Fórmula capitalista mata bebés

En el transcurso de una semana en julio, los monopolios de las fórmulas para bebés expusieron que el impulso para obtener ganancias capitalistas mata infantes, y la pandilla de Trump mostró cómo un régimen imperialista sirve - o intenta hacerlo - a estos monopolios por cualquier medio despiadado que pueda. Bueno es que hayan fracasado.

Los monopolios capitalistas luchan por ganancias por encima de todos los demás objetivos. La administración de Donald Trump no solo ayuda y fomenta estos crímenes, sino que lo hace de una manera tan evidente que es imposible ignorarlo.

Un estudio de 2016 de The Lancet, una de las revistas médicas más prestigiosas del mundo, descubrió que la lactancia podría evitar 80.000 muertes infantiles al año en todo el mundo. Eso significa que Nestlé, con sede en Suiza, y Abbott Laboratories, con sede en los Estados Unidos, entre otros, ya han contribuido a millones de muertes de niñas/os a escala mundial. Abbott fue un gran contribuyente a la ceremonia de inauguración de Donald Trump.

Estas compañías han matado a millones de bebés durante décadas mediante la promoción agresiva de su fórmula para bebés. Aunque saben que es una mentira, afirman que su producto es más saludable que la leche materna. También implican en su publicidad que amamantar es lo que hacen las mujeres pobres porque no saben nada.

Ninguna fórmula hasta la fecha es más nutritiva que la leche materna, pero esa no es la causa de las muertes. El principal problema es que en los países donde es difícil obtener agua potable, mezclar la fórmula seca con agua local puede provocar diarrea u otras enfermedades que matan a los bebés. La leche materna también proporciona inmunidad a las enfermedades a través de los anticuerpos pasados de madre a hija/o.

Incluso si el agua local es potable y la refrigeración está disponible, la fórmula puede costar más dinero que lo que disponen las personas. Para rendir la fórmula, la persona que cuida al bebé siente la tentación de agregar más agua, y la fórmula diluida es inadecuada para alimentar al bebé. Esto también ocurre en familias pobres en países más ricos.

Consciente de estos problemas, la Organización Mundial de la Salud ha tratado de limitar el uso de la fórmula, especialmente en los países más pobres de todo el mundo. La Organización Mundial de la Salud promueve la lactancia materna como una medida de salud para salvar las vidas de los bebés y mejorar su nutrición.

Nestlé, Abbott Laboratories y otros, en su incesante búsqueda de ganancias, están tratando de expandir el mercado mundial de $11,5 mil millones en fórmula para bebés. Están desesperados porque en los países más ricos, especialmente en los Estados Unidos, más madres, por diversas razones, eligen amamantar y comprar menos fórmula. Esto lleva a la publicidad agresiva y falsa de las compañías.

Consciente de esta creciente agresividad, la OMS intentó llegar a un acuerdo sobre una resolución estándar para promover la lactancia materna en los países miembros y continuar limitando la publicidad falsa de los monopolios de fórmula. Ecuador estaba preparado para presentar la resolución.

Fue entonces cuando el imperialismo estadounidense intervino, amenazando a Ecuador con sanciones si presentaba la resolución. Cuando Ecuador retrocedió -después de todo, a ningún país pequeño le gusta estar en las miras de Washington- Estados Unidos amenazó a cualquier otro país que intentara presentarlo.

Eso significa que la administración Trump estaba usando el peso económico y diplomático del imperialismo estadounidense para promover políticas que matan a los bebés.

Rusia finalmente introdujo la medida. Y pasó. Después del alboroto en las agencias de salud a nivel mundial, EUA incluso se vio obligado a votar a favor de la resolución.

Una pequeña victoria y una gran lección. □